



REZ DANCE

## **Rez Dance Parent/Student Handbook**

Welcome to Rez Dance!

Rez Dance exists to train excellent dancers who worship the Lord with their whole hearts, teach others about Christ, glorify God with their bodies and movement, and unashamedly praise God through dance.

Rez Dance holds weekly classes for all ages and levels, where dancers can learn a variety of dance techniques and styles in an encouraging environment filled with praise and worship. Students will be taught the fundamentals of dance in classes provided for both dancers who desire to excel in their technical ability, as well as those dancers who dance for recreational purposes and praise. Dance is a gift from God, and He wants that gift to be shared with families at Rez.Church and the surrounding community.

In addition to weekly classes, dancers are given various performance and ministry opportunities. These include but are not limited to, Christmas productions, Outreach Projects, the Annual Spring production, Dance Mission Trips, and many more. These are subject to change year by year, and some are audition only opportunities.

Every class is an opportunity not only to learn dance techniques, but to also minister the love of Jesus through devotional time, worship activities, and to experience the love shown by teachers. Rez Dance Lead Teachers are highly qualified and trained as well as passionate about the love of God, the love of dance and the love of people. They are committed to their students as well as strive to portray the love, purity and beauty of God through their instruction, while bringing glory to God in all they do in and out of their classrooms.



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From costumes, class dress code, music choices and dance movement, parents can be confident that their dancer(s) are in a safe environment where they will learn the purity of body, heart and mind.

This Handbook is designed and written to provide you with the basic information for the 2023-2024 dance year at Rez Dance. Please refer to [rezdance.org](http://rezdance.org) or our social media throughout the year for our schedule, classes, staff information, and more.

### **Communication:**

Our primary method of communication is email. Please be sure to open all emails from Rez Dance and Rez.Church. All communication is through the Planning Center App, Rez Dance website, Newsletters and our social media pages. You may need to check your Spam or Junk email folders to make sure you are not missing any emails, and to make sure that all emails from Rez.Church are marked as safe. You will be notified of class cancellations, room changes, production details, and other important information. If you do not receive emails from us, and you know you should be, please contact Tarrah Roach [troach@rez.church](mailto:troach@rez.church) and she will help you.

We also use the Planning Center app, Church Center, to send messages like a text message to you. You will need to login as your student to get access to this information.

### **Performances:**

Rez Dance has various performance opportunities for all dancers.

For the 2023-2024 year, there will be a Christmas and Spring Production for both Junior and Senior level dancers. We will implement a new process where Junior level dancers will start the production. During a brief intermission, one parent can grab their Junior level dancer and join back in the auditorium for the senior production; it is understood if you need to get them home though. All senior



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level dancers will need to be there throughout the entire show as we will have a few of their pieces in the junior show.

The date for the "Gift of Emmanuel" recital is December 15th, 2023. Please see the last page for tech and dress rehearsal dates.

The Senior dancers also get a chance to perform their own pieces at the 2023 Student Showcase "Connection". The Student Showcase will be December 1st, 2023. Auditions for this will be November 17th, 2023 and tech rehearsal will be December 1st, 2023 prior to the event starting.

Our Spring Production "Redeemed" will be May 10th, 2024. Please see the last page for tech and dress rehearsal dates.

On tech rehearsal days, dancers will get the chance to do their dance on stage, as well as get photos taken by a photographer of choice by Rez Dance. Please read the section about photography with any questions about it.

On dress rehearsal day, only level 1 dancers and higher are asked to attend. This is when we will run through the entire show order as if we were performing.

Dancers need to come "show ready" with stage makeup, hair, and costume for both tech and dress rehearsals.

Each production is a wonderful opportunity for the dancers to showcase what they have learned in class, as well as be a part of an incredible production to glorify God and show Him thanks for the gift of dance. If you/your child chooses not to be a part of either performance, their teacher(s) and the dance Lead Team (Ms. Tarrah and Ms. Wendy) will need to be notified no later than October 1st for **BOTH** Productions. This allows each teacher to plan choreography accordingly. If we do not receive notification, we will assume your child is performing, and a costume will be ordered for your dancer. If you choose not to perform after your dancer's costume(s) are purchased, there will be no refund



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for the costume(s) ordered, and you will still be responsible for payment of the costume(s).

### **Costuming:**

Costumes are billed to you directly via Square. You will receive an invoice that you will pay on your own, with a given due date. If an invoice is not paid by the given due date, the invoice will be processed for you, but with an additional \$10 Service Fee added. Costumes are paid for individually, along with a production fee of \$35 per dancer, not per class. This fee covers our tech team, as well as covers the cost of our photographer to allow everyone to have unlimited downloads for photos. You will receive invoices in the winter for Christmas and another in the spring for the Spring Production.

### **Photos:**

Each production, Rez Dance will choose a photographer to come and take photos of each class. The photographer of our choice will take group photos of each class as well as stage photos. They will do their best to get individual photos of each dancer. These photos are not guaranteed (individuals), but they will do their best to accommodate as much as possible.

The Production fee will cover unlimited digital downloads for each person who chooses to do so. There is a window where the gallery is open, and that will be determined by the photographer. All the information you will need in regards to downloading will come via email from Rez Dance, and you will be able to follow the prompts given.

### **Social Media:**

Photos that are taken by professional photographers become the property of Rez Dance once released by the photographer. We exercise the right to utilize these photos on social media platforms, advertising materials, as well as on our website. If you wish to NOT have your child on social media or any of the above resources, please let our Director, Tarrah Roach, know so she can make a note on your child's account. Nothing we post is ever negative, demeaning or of ill



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will. Our goal is to share the love of dance, and God's love with those who could need it most.

### **Dress Code:**

At Rez Dance, dress code is very important. It promotes excellence, discipline and modesty in dance. Please take a few moments to review the dress codes for each dance style, and make sure your dancer is prepared for any and all classes they will be participating in. If dancers are not dressed properly, then they could be asked to sit out of class, dress code is also a safety precaution.

### Ballet (including Toddlers, Sparkles and Beginning Ballet/Tap Combos):

Dancers need to have pink ballet tights, black leotard (any color is acceptable for Junior level dancers), and a ballet skirt. The ballet skirt is required for Junior level dancers, but is optional for Senior level dancers. Ballet shoes are needed, and can be leather or canvas shoes. Boys should wear black dance pants or shorts, with a black t-shirt, and black ballet shoes. Hair needs to be up and away from the face, in a ponytail, braids, or bun for younger Junior level dancers, and a bun is required for all for older or Senior level dancers. Underwear cannot show.

### Jazz/Tap:

Black leggings, dance pants, or dance capris with a black modest tank top, t-shirt or leotard. Black jazz shoes are needed for Jazz. And black leather tap shoes are needed for tap. Hair needs to be up and away from the face in either ponytail, braids or bun.

### Contemporary/Hip Hop:

Black loose fitting pants, leggings or dance pants with a black modest tank top or t-shirt can be worn. Foot undies shoes are recommended for contemporary. Sneakers are needed for hip hop. Hair needs to be pulled away from the face in a ponytail, bun, or braids.



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### Tumbling:

A modest leotard with shorts or leggings is acceptable. Gymnastics leotards are also acceptable, as long as the colors are not obnoxious or distracting. Hair needs to be pulled away from the face in either a ponytail, braids or bun. Barefoot or Tennis Shoes required. Socks are not prohibited.

Please make sure all shirts are not low cut, in either the front or back, and bellies cannot be seen with the arms raised above the head. Ballet skirts and dance shorts are allowed as long as they are accompanied by tights and a leotard. Gymnastics attire and leotards with bright colors, cut off shorts or jewels are not permitted in ballet classes, but can be worn in tumbling classes. Tight fitting leggings are allowed, but dancer's ankles need to be seen, and the fabric cannot be see-through.

Street clothes such as loose pants, dresses, skirts or jeans are not allowed. Sweatpants are allowed as warm ups only, and can be worn in hip hop as long as they do not fall down, and the dancer's body lines can still be seen. Small earrings are allowed, but no big or distracting jewelry should be worn in dance classes; they are a distraction as well as a safety hazard.

Proper shoes are essential to dance classes as they protect the dancer's feet and develop good technique. Each style has a different type of shoe needed, so ask your dancer's teacher(s) for clarification on which shoes they will need.

### **Class Placement:**

Student class placement is highly individualized, and has multiple factors that go into the placement process. We will be looking at the dancer's previous dance experience, technical achievement, age, attitude in class, and various other dynamics when giving all of our students a placement for the dance year. Teachers will do evaluations at the beginning, middle, and end of a dance year to make sure each dancer is correctly placed in the right class or classes. Middle of the session evaluations are a way for teachers and dancers to make sure they are on the right track, as well as it gives them the opportunity to find out what to



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work on before the next evaluation period. It is very common for a dancer to stay at the same level for a few years.

We only allow class changes 2 weeks after registration is closed for the year, if the dancer is truly in the wrong class. If a dancer is in the wrong class, the teacher will contact the Dance Lead Team, and you will be notified for a change in classes from the Dance Lead Team. It will then be coordinated for a dancer to switch classes that best suit their growth as a dancer. Once the 2 week window after registration is over, students cannot be moved to different classes. We ask that parents trust our teacher's and the Lead Team's professional decision to have a dancer in a certain class.

Please feel free to ask your dancer's teacher how they are doing throughout the year. We also please ask you to trust your dancer's teacher's professional opinion in the placement decisions for your dancer that is optimal for their growth.

### **Attendance:**

All students are expected to attend their regularly scheduled classes. Choreography will be taught during class time from late September to December for the Winter production and from late January to April for the Spring production. It is important for all dancers to feel comfortable and confident in their choreographed dances for both productions.

Being absent for 4 or more classes per semester, or any of the 4 classes leading up to the production will result in your dancer possibly being ineligible for performance in the production. Teachers discretion will be used once your child has missed more than 4 classes.

If a child is sick and needs to miss class, please email their teacher at miss(first name).[rezdance@gmail.com](mailto:rezdance@gmail.com) or the Dance Lead Team, but please email their Lead Teacher as a priority FIRST, not the Lead Team unless you absolutely have to. Teacher emails are also on the website under the "Staff" tab. Please do not



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use social media or any other form of personal communication to notify a teacher of a dancer's absence. If a dancer is unable to attend a performance, please notify the Dance Lead Team immediately. Teachers choreograph pieces based on who is participating. We are striving for excellence in dance, and that is only achieved through consistent attendance and participation. If attendance becomes an issue, you will be notified by your dancer's Lead teacher and the Rez Dance Lead Team to come up with a solution together.

### **Tardiness:**

If a dancer is 10 or more minutes late to class, they will most likely have missed the proper warm up and can be asked to sit the remainder of class, at the discretion of the Lead teacher, due to the risk of injury. Dance is a physical activity, and requires the proper warm-up to be able to dance effectively. Safety and injury prevention is a top priority at Rez Dance.

### **Discipline:**

Sometimes we have to be more strict with some of our dancers. If a child is distracting, we will give them a warning or two based on their age, then will ask them to sit if it is still a problem. If a child is level 1 and below, they will receive 2 warnings before being asked to sit. If a dancer is level 2 and above, they will receive 1 warning before being asked to sit. If behavior is a consistent issue, we will contact you as the parent directly to come up with a solution together. Please let us know if your child has a medical condition, learning disability or something that requires them to miss consistently, so we can care for them appropriately.

### **Restroom Policy:**

Please have all dancers use the restroom before class. Please plan your time accordingly so your dancer can still get to class on time. We will allow students to use the restroom in class only if it is an emergency. Younger dancers will have more leniency in regards to the restroom because some of them are still learning. However, we do not want to cause major disruption with having to use the restroom.





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### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

- September 8th, 2023 - PJ's and Donuts Parents Night Out (Registration will open August 25th on Church Center)
- October 20th, 2023 - Monsters Inc Parents Night Out (Registration will open October 6th on Church Center)
- November 17th, 2023 - Connection Showcase Auditions
- December 1st, 2023 - Connection Showcase Dress Rehearsal
- December 1st, 2023 - Connection Showcase
- December 9th, 2023 - Nutcracker Drop In (Registration will open November 17th on Church Center)
- December 10th, 2023 - Gift of Emmanuel Tech (All dancers required)
- December 11th, 2023 - Gift of Emmanuel Dress Rehearsal (Level 1 and up dancers required)
- December 15th, 2023 - Gift Of Emmanuel Christmas Recital
- February 16th, 2024 - Father/Daughter Valentines Dance (Registration will open February 1st)
- April 12th, 2024 - Island Theme Parents Night Out (Registration will open March 29th)
- May 5th, 2024 - Redeemed Tech Rehearsal (All Dancers required)
- May 6th, 2024 - Redeemed Dress Rehearsal (Level 1 and up dancers required)
- May 10th, 2024 - Redeemed Recital
- May 19th, 2024 - Mother Daughter Tea Time (Registration will open May 1st)
- May 28-30th - Princess Camp - 2 to 6 year olds (Registration opens May 10th)
- June 10-12th - Pixar Camp - 2 to 6 year olds (Registration opens May 10th)
- June 24-27th - The Great I Am Camp - 7 to 11 year olds (Registration opens May 10th)
- July 8-10th - Super Hero Camp - 2 to 6 year olds (Registration opens May 10th)
- July 22-25th - Empower - 12+ year olds (Registration opens May 10th)



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### **NO CLASS DATES:**

- September 4th, 2023 - Labor Day
- October 31st, 2023 - Halloween
- November 20th-24th, 2023 - Thanksgiving/Fall Break
- December 16- January 7, 2024 - Semester Break
- January 15, 2024 - MLK Day
- February 19, 2024 - Presidents Day
- March 11-15th, 2024 - Spring Break
- March 29, 2024 - Good Friday

(Updated June 2023)

